

-Patent
Attorney's Docket No.003300-634

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
Timo LAAKSO et al.) Group Art Unit: 1616
Application No.: 09/424,741-09/529,442) Examiner: R DeWitty
Filed: April 13, 2000)
For: ENCAPSULATION METHOD)

#51B
HKO
5-22-02

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is timely filed in complete response to the Official Action mailed on July 23, 2001 (Paper No. 4) and due on October 23, 2001.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 as follows:

B1 Sub D
1. (Once Amended) A method of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:

a) dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;

05/23/2002 HDENDY 00000b05 02480 dispersing said active substance in the organic solution obtained in step a), to
01 FC:103 18.00 CH provide a dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and

c) subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b), to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase, such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained.